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USE AND APPLICATION OF UNITED NATIONS STANDARDS AND NORMS IN CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report highlights recent developments in the promotion of the use and application of existing United Nations standards and norms, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1993/34 and 1997/32, focusing on ways and means of improving current procedures. It also contains information on the strengthening of system-wide coordination in the field of juvenile justice, in accordance with Council resolution 1997/30, and provides an overview of the implementation of Council resolution 1997/31 on victims of crime and abuse of power.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present report has been prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1992/22, 1997/30 and 1997/31. It covers three topics, namely, the information-gathering process on the use and application of standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, the administration of juvenile justice and the issue of victims of crime and abuse of power.

2. In its resolution 1992/22, section VII, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should include in its agenda a standing item on existing United Nations standards and norms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, which serve as recommendations to Member States, including their use and application. The information-gathering process on the use and application of standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice was established by the Council in its resolution 1993/34, section III, paragraph 7 (c). The present report outlines some possible strategies for the further development of the information-gathering system, which currently includes 11 standards, namely, the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners,[1] the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials (General Assembly resolution 34/169, annex), together with the Basic Principles for the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials,[2] the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (General Assembly resolution 40/34, annex), the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary,[3] the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules) (General Assembly resolution 40/33, annex), the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines) (General Assembly resolution 45/112, annex), the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (General Assembly resolution 45/113, annex), the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (The Tokyo Rules) (General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex), the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers[4] and the Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors.[5]

3. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1997/30 on the administration of juvenile justice, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the implementation of that resolution on a biennial basis. As requested by the Bureau of the Commission, the cycle of biennial reporting starts with the seventh session of the Commission. Accordingly, the attention of the Commission is invited to the Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System, as elaborated by the Commission at its sixth session and approved by the Council in resolution 1997/30, the draft text of which was prepared by an expert group meeting. The aims of the Guidelines are to provide a framework to achieve the following objectives: (a) to implement

the Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex) and to pursue the goals set forth in the Convention with regard to children in the context of the administration of juvenile justice, as well as to use and apply the United Nations standards and norms in juvenile justice, as well as other related instruments; and (b) to facilitate the provision of assistance to States parties for the effective implementation of the Convention and related instruments. With regard to mechanisms for the implementation of technical advice and assistance projects, as contained in the Guidelines, chapter II contains information on action taken by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Centre for International Crime Prevention, including the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the network of non-governmental organizations in juvenile justice.

4. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/31 on victims of crime and abuse of power, chapter III provides an overview of the recent activities undertaken to further the use and application of the Declaration on Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power.

I. INFORMATION-GATHERING ON THE USE AND APPLICATION OF STANDARDS AND NORMS IN CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

5. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1993/34, section III, requested the Secretary-General to commence a process of information-gathering to be undertaken by means of surveys, such as reporting systems, and contributions from other sources. The Council further decided that the surveys should be conducted over a two-year period in order to enable Member States to have sufficient time to provide replies.

6. The gathering of information aims at gaining a better understanding of how Member States use the instruments in practice and to what extent the international instruments are reflected in national laws and regulations. Questionnaires concerning the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, together with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power and the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary were endorsed by the Council, in its resolution 1994/18, and surveys on the use and application of those instruments reflecting the replies of Member States were submitted to the Commission at its fifth session (E/CN.15/1996/16/Add.1-4).

7. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/13, a questionnaire on the use and application of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules), the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines) and the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty has been disseminated to Member States. The results of the survey, based on 51 country replies, are summarized in an addendum to the present report (E/CN.15/1998/8/Add.1).

8. In its resolution 1997/32, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretariat to prepare the relevant survey instruments on the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (The Tokyo Rules), the Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors and the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers for submission to the Commission at its seventh session. Those survey instruments will be submitted for the consideration of the Commission in a conference room paper (E/CN.15/1998/CRP.3).

9. In the past, in order to avoid overburdening Member States with responding to the questionnaires, as well as the Secretariat in analysing the replies, a "staggered" approach was adopted, i.e. a set of instruments was selected and questionnaires developed in the first year, replies from Member States were analysed and comprehensive reports were submitted to the Commission in the third year, while questionnaires were

developed for another set of instruments in the second year, the results of which were reported in the fourth year.

10. The Economic and Social Council invited Governments that had not yet done so to provide the Secretariat with information regarding the standards in crime prevention and criminal justice referred to in Council resolution 1996/16. The information received as at 15 February 1998 is as follows:

United Nations standards and norms	*Total number of Member States that returned completed questionnaires/submitted detailed information on the subject*	*Number of Member States that have been reflected in reports of the Secretary-General to the Commission*	*Number of replies received after having submitted reports of the Secretary-General to the Commission*
Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners	99	72	27
Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials	91	65	26
Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials	91	65	26
Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary	84	58	26
Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power	66	47	19
United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules)	57	51	6
United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines)	57	51	6
United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty	57	51	6

11. The information received from Member States on the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, together with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, is accessible on the World Wide Web as a part of the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network (UNCJIN).

Such information summarizes the results included in the report submitted to the Commission at its fifth session (E/CN.15/1996/16/Add.2) and additional replies received since March 1996. Information regarding the other instruments could be made available on the World Wide Web, if resources for the related work were to become available.

12. Regarding those country replies that have not yet been reflected in reports of the Secretary-General, it is suggested that an updated report should be submitted to the Commission whenever 30 additional replies have been received. It would thus be ensured that the Commission is kept informed of the information received in a comprehensive fashion.

13. In order to ensure coverage of the use and application of all standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, additional instruments should be identified. Currently, the following instruments are not yet included in the information-gathering system:

(a) Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime (A/49/748, annex);

(b) Guidelines for Cooperation and Technical Assistance in the Field of Urban Crime Prevention (Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/9, annex);

(c) International Code of Conduct for Public Officials (General Assembly resolution 51/59, annex);

(d) United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security (General Assembly resolution 51/60, annex);

(e) United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions (General Assembly resolution 51/191, annex);

(f) Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (General Assembly resolution 52/86, annex).

14. In addition, it could be envisaged to include in the information-gathering system the model treaties that were developed under the auspices of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. In so doing, the Commission would receive feedback on the extent to which the model treaties are used in bilateral and multilateral agreements. The model treaties include:

(a) Model Agreement on the Transfer of Foreign Prisoners and recommendations on the treatment of foreign prisoners;[6]

(b) Model Treaty for the Prevention of Crimes that Infringe on the Cultural Heritage of Peoples in the Form of Movable Property;[7]

(c) Model Treaty on Extradition (General Assembly resolution 45/116, annex);

(d) Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (General Assembly resolution 45/117, annex);

(e) Model Treaty on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters (General Assembly resolution 45/118, annex);

(f) Model Bilateral Treaty for the Return of Stolen or Embezzled Vehicles (Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/29, annex II).

15. Regarding the issue of the death penalty and respect for the safeguards guaranteeing the rights of those facing the death penalty, the Centre for International Crime Prevention submitted the fifth quinquennial report to the Economic and Social Council in 1995. An updated report was submitted to the Commission at its fifth session in 1996. In principle, the quinquennial report could be included in the reporting machinery of the information-gathering system, particularly when account is taken of the fact that, according to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/12,[8] the Secretary-General has been requested to submit a yearly supplement to that report on changes in law and practice concerning the death penalty worldwide, copies of which will be made available to the Commission.

16. In order to improve the impact of the information-gathering system, the Secretariat could design a model profile for individual countries on the basis of the information received on the implementation of existing standards and norms, as well as other data such as, for example, the periodic surveys of world crime trends and the functioning of the criminal justice system. Such a model profile could be submitted for approval of its format to the Commission at its eighth session. Additional information submitted to the Secretariat from the country, as well as other relevant sources of information, could be included into that country profile over time, thus ensuring that the Commission can review current and future developments on a regular basis. These country profiles could be made available on the World Wide Web as part of UNCJIN/United Nations On-line Crime and Justice Clearing House (UNOJUST). At the same time, the Centre could encourage the involvement of scientific institutes interested in crime prevention and criminal justice research at the international level, such as the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council, the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law and the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, in the process of information-gathering and analysis. At the same time, the country profiles could also be used to periodically analyse the relevant information, with a view to identifying the needs of Member States for technical assistance in specific areas (for example, medical care in prisons and crowd-control training for police).

17. As soon as all instruments have been included in the information-gathering system, starting again with those instruments that were considered in 1996, Member States could be requested to provide the Secretary-General with even more detailed information on selected issues, for example, on prison management, on education and training for judges and magistrates, on training for law enforcement officials and on the involvement of victims of crime in criminal proceedings against the perpetrator. Along with the new questionnaire, each Member State would receive the Government's earlier response to the umbrella questionnaire and the earlier agreed upon country profile. At the same time, Member States would be requested to report on any changes regarding the country profile.

18. The same machinery as set out above would be followed, i.e. the data would be analysed and incorporated in the country profile; there would be communication with the Member State on the correctness of the country profile; the country profile would be posted on the World Wide Web; involvement of the international scientific community would be encouraged; analysis of the technical assistance needs assessment would take place; and a report would be submitted to the Commission. By following this procedure, duplication of questionnaires and responses would be avoided and in-depth information could be received and analysed over time.

II. JUVENILE JUSTICE

19. In its resolution 1997/30, the Economic and Social Council invited the Secretary-General to strengthen the system-wide coordination of activities in the field of juvenile justice, including the prevention of juvenile delinquency, particularly with regard to research, dissemination of information, training and the effective use

and application of existing standards and norms, as well as the implementation of technical assistance projects. In the same resolution, the Secretary-General was invited to consider establishing a coordination panel on technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice, with a view to coordinating such international activities in the field of juvenile justice. The Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System suggested that, prior to the first meeting of the coordination panel, a strategy should be elaborated for addressing the issue of how to activate further international cooperation in the field of juvenile justice. Accordingly, an ad hoc meeting on the formulation of a strategy for the coordination panel was convened at Vienna from 6 to 9 November 1997. The meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Ms. Judith Karp, and was attended by representatives of UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Centre for International Crime Prevention and the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network. The coordination panel also includes the international network of non-governmental organizations in juvenile justice, which was established in January 1997, and serves as a clearing house for activities of 60 international or national non-governmental organizations and persons in their own capacity working in the area of juvenile justice.

20. The convening of the meeting was important to put together efforts to better assist children in conflict with the law. The purpose of the coordination panel is to assist States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to implement fully its provision concerning the rights of the child when in conflict with the law. To that end, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, at the end of its consideration of each country report, issues concluding observations that often include a recommendation to seek technical assistance in juvenile justice from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Centre for International Crime Prevention and/or UNICEF, in accordance with article 45 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is envisaged that partners in the coordination panel could conduct joint needs assessment missions to Member States, with a view to formulating and implementing technical assistance projects in juvenile justice. The work of the partners in the panel should be a complementary pooling of capacities and interests. The sharing of information would be essential to the success of coordination.

21. The Committee on the Rights of the Child places considerable emphasis on juvenile justice during the review of State party reports. This was highlighted by the special one-day "theme" discussion that the Committee convened on juvenile justice in November 1995. However, as the Committee had only limited time to review the parts of the report related to juvenile justice of a State party to the Convention, there was a need for the Committee to focus on the most pertinent problems regarding the rights of the child when in conflict with the law. For that purpose, advance background information on the country situation was essential. In the view of the Committee, juvenile justice reform was needed in almost all countries whose country reports had been considered. Twenty-six of those countries, namely Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Jamaica, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic and Uruguay, have been recommended by the Committee to seek assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Centre for International Crime Prevention or UNICEF. A compilation of excerpts from the Committee's recommendations on each of those countries is available from the Secretariat.

22. The various partners are involved in the provision of technical assistance in juvenile justice at various levels and in accordance with their different structures and types of operation. A detailed report on technical assistance projects, which is, in part, a direct output of the above-mentioned meeting, is reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on technical cooperation (E/CN.15/1998/9). Increased cooperation among the various organizations would lead to more effective programme implementation, bearing in mind the different but mutually reinforcing interests of the partners involved.

23. The first meeting of the coordination panel will be held in June 1998.

III. VICTIMS OF CRIME AND ABUSE OF POWER

24. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1997/31, requested the Secretary-General to finalize the manual on the implementation of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power and the international victims assistance handbook on the use and application of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power. Accordingly, a United Nations expert group meeting was organized, with a view to completing the texts of the manual and the handbook. The meeting, which was hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime of the Department of Justice of the United States of America, was held at Washington, D.C., on 26 and 27 February 1998. The expert group debated practical approaches for the use of the manual and handbook in different regions and elaborated a plan of action for the implementation of the Declaration. Three expert group meetings had been convened previously to elaborate the two documents—at Vienna in December 1995, at Tulsa, Oklahoma, United States, in August 1996 and at The Hague in March 1997.

25. The Secretariat participated in the twenty-third annual conference of the National Organizations for Victims Assistance, held at Houston, Texas, United States, from 17 to 22 August 1997, which elicited further input from experts for the completion of the handbook. The Centre was also represented at the Ninth International Symposium on Victimology, organized by the World Society of Victimology, held at Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from 25 to 29 August 1997, at which a special session was devoted to the elaboration of the manual and handbook.

26. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/31, the Secretary-General requested the views of Member States on the manual and handbook, which had been submitted previously, for submission to the Commission at its seventh session. The Council invited Governments to provide information on promising practices and legislation concerning victim-related issues, with a view to establishing a database and clearing house for the provision of a continuing information service and policy guidance for governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and practitioners.

27. As at 31 December 1997, 13 countries had provided their views, namely, Chile, Finland, Germany, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, South Africa, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Some Member States made specific comments on the texts of the draft documents, which were taken into account in the process of their finalization.

28. All responding countries supported the manual and handbook and welcomed their dissemination as United Nations publications. Japan, while appreciating the documents as sources of valuable information for victim support, noted that the proposed manual and handbook were to be used as reference material rather than as sources of general norms, as legislative systems and situations varied from country to country. Spain was of the view that both documents would contribute towards the effective application of the Declaration. For the United Kingdom, the draft handbook reflected the best existing practices and procedures.

29. Some examples of promising practices and relevant legislation were submitted by Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Qatar, South Africa, Singapore, Spain and the United Kingdom. Japan, Singapore, South Africa and Spain enacted new legislation or established programmes in order to enhance assistance for victims of crime. Japan developed handbooks for victims and guidelines on victim treatment for police investigators, while in Spain a committee for aid and assistance to victims of violent crimes and crimes against sexual freedom was established, in consonance with the manual. In Germany, which has had victim protection laws since 1987, the introduction of video technology for remote interviewing was under consideration, with a view to reducing stress on children who are victims of sexual abuse when they have to testify about the crime. Qatar has victim compensation schemes in place in cases of manslaughter, semi-wilful or intentional homicide, and injury. In the United Kingdom, pilot projects have been conducted in several policing areas on the most effective

information system for the victim and on the interest of victims in giving victim impact statements. The Netherlands expressed its willingness to support the establishment of a database and clearing house for the provision of a continuing information service and policy guidance to governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and practitioners.

30. Consultations have been pursued with the relevant entities and possible partners regarding the desirability of establishing a mechanism or mechanisms to facilitate the coordination of initiatives to prevent victimization and assist victims of crime and abuse of power, with a view to fostering an integrated approach, especially in respect of technical cooperation. United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations active in this field were of the view that coordination was necessary to achieve the optimum use of resources, as well as to ensure an integrated approach by the United Nations system. Drawing on the replies received from various entities, possible mechanisms were further explored, such as the establishment of a task force with an appropriate division of responsibilities. UNICEF supported the Declaration, while recommending that reference should be made to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which also provided protection to child victims. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was willing to provide substantive and technical contributions to assist in implementing the provisions of the Declaration. The World Health Organization, in view of the recent endorsement of the plan of action on violence and health by the World Health Assembly, observed that there were strong links with the work of the Centre regarding the role of public health services and professionals. In addition, non-governmental organizations, such as the Defence for Children International Movement, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, the Salvation Army and the World Society of Victimology, supported the elaboration of the manual and handbook, as well as strengthened cooperation in the field of victim assistance.

31. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1997/31, expressed its appreciation of the work of the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. The Council specifically recommended that in the statute and rules of procedure of the Court, appropriate attention should be given to the principles contained in the Declaration. The Preparatory Committee, at its session held from 4 to 15 August 1997, included a provisional article on the matter in its report (A/AC.249/1997/L.8/Rev.1). That provisional article (article 43) includes a number of measures for the protection of victims, such as closed proceedings or other measures to safeguard the victim's security or privacy, as well as the establishment of a victim and witnesses unit to provide counselling and other assistance. A proposal was also made to add the following text: "The rules of procedure shall include provisions giving effect to the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power".

32. At its session held from 1 to 12 December 1997, the Preparatory Committee discussed an article that deals with the issue of fines and assets collected by the Court (A/AC.249/1997/L.9/Rev.1, annex V, new article 47 *ter*). These may be transferred, by order of the Court, to one or more of the following: (a) [as a matter of priority,] a trust fund [established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations] or [administered by the Court] for the benefit of victims of crime [and their families]; (b) a State the nationals of which were the victims of the crime; (c) the registrar, to defray the costs of the trial. Proposals for amendments to the article were included in bracketed texts for consideration at the diplomatic conference to be held at Rome from 15 June to 17 July 1998.

IV. CONCLUSION AND PROPOSALS FOR ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

33. Information provided by Member States indicates that there is a high potential for the information-gathering system to contribute to identifying research and technical assistance needs in crime prevention and criminal justice. For that purpose, the information provided should be analysed in greater depth and the results used effectively. The Commission may wish to consider what has been accomplished, what direction should

be taken and what activities should be pursued in respect of the current system for the gathering of information on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. Chapter I raises a number of issues the Commission may wish to consider in determining the future course in this respect. In particular, the Commission may wish to comment on the three draft questionnaires submitted to the present session and consider the selection of further instruments to be included in the information-gathering system. In addition, the Commission may wish to consider the inclusion of the quinquennial report on the death penalty and the safeguards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty into the system of reporting on information-gathering. The Commission may further wish to request the Secretariat to design a model profile for individual countries, on the basis of the information received on the implementation of existing standards and norms, as well as other data such as, for example, the periodic surveys of world crime trends and the functioning of the criminal justice system. Should the Commission decide to request the development of country profiles, that would require allocation of additional resources for that purpose. The Commission may also wish to encourage the involvement of scientific institutes interested in crime prevention and criminal justice research at the international level in the process of information-gathering and analysis.

34. With regard to the administration of juvenile justice, the Centre has enhanced its cooperation with other United Nations organizations and entities, as well as with other partners involved in assisting Member States to improve their juvenile justice systems (see chapter II). The Committee on the Rights of the Child, in reviewing the reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, recommended that a number of States parties should seek assistance from either the Centre, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights or UNICEF. The coordination panel, established in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/30, will provide an adequate framework for those organizations, including the network of non-governmental organizations in juvenile justice, to cooperate in technical assistance projects to reform the juvenile justice systems in those countries, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the relevant international instruments on juvenile justice. Enhanced provision of technical assistance will, however, require allocation of resources and additional funding. The Commission may wish to provide guidance in this area, particularly as regards the provision of technical assistance provided by the Centre.

35. As to victims of crime and abuse of power, several initiatives have been taken to foster the effective use of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power that should contribute to the improvement of the treatment of victims. In order to further promote its application in the various regions of the world, the Secretary-General will submit the proposed manual and handbook to the Commission for its consideration, together with the report of the expert group meeting on victims of crime and abuse of power in the international setting, held at Washington, D.C., on 26 and 27 February 1998, convened by the Government of the United States in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/31.

Notes

[1]See *First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Geneva, 22 August-3 September 1955: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 1956.IV.4), annex I.A.

[2]*Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August-7 September 1990: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. B.2, annex.

[3]*Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 26 August-6 September 1985: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1), chap. I, sect. D.2, annex.

[4]*Eighth United Nations Congress ...*, chap. I, sect. B.3, annex.

[5]Ibid., sect. C.26, annex.

[6]*Seventh United Nations Congress ...*, chap. I, sect. B.1, annexes I and II.

[7]*Eighth United Nations Congress ...*, chap. I, sect. B.1, annex.

[8]See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 3* (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. A.